

REMARKS

In the Final Office action dated 23 July 2010, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14, 21-22, 24-26, and 28-29 under Section 103(a) over the combination of Yianilos and McCullough. And, while the Examiner indicated that claims 23 and 27 recite patentable subject matter, objection was made to such claims for being dependent upon rejected base claims.

The Applicants earlier responded to the Final Office action in a Rule 116 Amendment on 23 September 2010. But, the Amendment was refused entry. The Examiner indicated, however, in an Advisory Action dated 7 October 2010, that the amendments proposed in claims 21 and 22 would place such claims in allowable form.

Amendments proposed herein to claims 21 and 22 correspond to the amendments made thereto in the 23 September 2010 amendment. The amendments to claim 21 include the recitations of claim 23, and the amendments to claim 22 include the recitations of claim 27. Claims 23 and 27 are cancelled.

Amended as-proposed, independent claims 21 and 22 correspond to subject matter indicated by the Examiner in the Advisory Action to be allowable. The remaining dependent claims, claims 24-26 and claims 28-29, are dependent upon claims 21 and 22, respectively, and are also believed to be allowable.

Accordingly, entry of the proposed amendments and allowance of the application is respectfully requested. Such early action is earnestly solicited.

Application No. 10/772,478
Amendment dated October 8, 2010
Reply to Office Action of July 23, 2010

No additional fee, nor any petition for extension of time, is believed to be necessary. The Applicants request, however, in the event that a petition for an extension of time is required, that this document be considered such a petition. And, the undersigned authorizes the Commissioner to debit deposit account number 50-4515 for any additional fee that might be necessary pursuant to submission of this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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